

controlling, with the controller, the audible alarm to selectively produce a plurality of distinct audible alarm signals.

REMARKS

Claims 1-25 are presently pending. Dependent Claims 11 and 15 have been amended to correct a minor typographical error. No new matter has been added.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner rejected Claims 1-25 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Fray (U.S. Patent 5,663,714).

Fray discloses an alarm system that includes a smoke detector and an alarm tone generator in which speakers broadcast, during an alarm condition, verbal messages and pulsed alerting sounds. However, Fray does not appear to disclose the concept of controlling the audible alarm with a control signal sent over a notification appliance circuit to select an audible alarm signal. More particularly, with reference to the present application, a system controller 14 is coupled to a network 16 of notification appliances 21 by power lines 18 and 20 (page 3, lines 9-21, Figure 1). The power lines 18, 20 also carry command messages, for example, by providing patterns in the power voltage, such as dropouts and spikes, to control the audible output of each notification appliance 21. A communications receiver 22 (Figure 2) is provided on the notification appliance 21 to interpret or decode the command messages received from the system controller 14 (page 4, lines 11-13).

In contrast, Fray discloses an alarm system 20 that includes a smoke detector 13 and an alarm tone generator 10 in which a speaker 12 broadcasts, during an alarm condition, verbal messages and pulsed alerting sounds. The alarm system 20 is connected to a power source at Points A and B (see Figure 4 of Fray). It is respectfully submitted that the alarm system 20 does not receive a remote control signal used to select an audible alarm signal, in contrast to aspects of the present application.

Independent Claims 1, 10, 16, 19, and 22 have been amended to emphasize this distinction and thus are believed to contain patentable subject matter over Fray.

The rejection of Claim 25 is respectfully traversed as it specifically recites a method for controlling an alarm system that includes changing, with encoded signals over a power line, audible tones or patterns. It is not believed that Fray sends encoded signals over a power line.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that, as amended, all independent claims and thus dependent claims contain patentable subject matter over Fray.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that all claims are in condition for allowance, and it is respectfully requested that the application be passed to issue. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this case, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at (978) 341-0036.

Respectfully submitted,

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MARKED UP VERSION OF AMENDMENTSClaim Amendments Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(c)(1)(ii)

1. (Amended) An audible alarm for use in an alarm system, the audible alarm producing a plurality of distinct audible alarm signals which are selectable in response to a remote control signal.
10. (Amended) An audible alarm for use in an alarm system that produces a plurality of distinct audible alarm signals, the audible alarm being controlled by a remote control signal, which selects at least one of the distinct audible alarm signals, sent over a notification [application] appliance circuit.
11. (Amended) The audible alarm of Claim 10, wherein power is also supplied over the notification appliance circuit.
15. (Amended) The audible alarm of Claim 14, wherein the microcontroller receives the control signal over the notification appliance circuit from a control panel.
16. (Amended) An audible alarm for use in an alarm system, comprising:
an alarm generator to generate a plurality of distinct, audible alarm signals; and
[control of the alarm generator] an alarm signal selector responsive to a remote control signal applied to the audible alarm.
19. (Amended) An alarm system comprising:
at least one audible alarm to generate plural distinct audible alarm signals; and
a system controller coupled to the audible alarm by a pair of lines, the system controller providing power over the pair of lines and sending a control signal over the pair of lines.

lines for directing the audible alarm to selectively produce the plural distinct audible alarm signals.

22. (Amended) A method of controlling an alarm system, comprising:
 - providing an audible alarm coupled to a remote controller; and
 - controlling, with the controller, the audible alarm to selectively produce a plurality of distinct audible alarm signals.